

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. This response is believed to fully address all issues raised in the Office Action mailed October 21, 2009. Furthermore, no new matter is believed to have been introduced hereby. Claims 21-22, 25-43, and 45-51 remain under examination. Claims 23-24 and 44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Objections

Objection to claim 23 is believed to be moot since claim 23 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

35 USC § 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 21, 23, 25-27, and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson (U.S. Publication No. 20060221527) in view of Acar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20050044515).

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0221527), Acar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20050044515) as applied to claim 21, and further in view of Lovett (U.S. Publication No. 20050125597).

Claims 28, 30-32 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0221527), Acar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20050044515) as applied to claim 21, and further in view of Huard et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20030206050).

Claims 33-39, 41-43, 45-51 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0221527) in view of Huard et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20030206050) and Acar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20050044515).

Claim 40 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0221527), Acar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20050044515), Huard et al. (U.S. Publication No. 20030206050) as applied to claim 39, and further in view of Lovett (U.S. Publication No. 20050125597).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed since the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination of features as set forth in any of the pending claims.

Without limiting the scope of embodiments of the invention, only in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out embodiments of the invention, rather than to avoid prior art), and merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to in part recite the language of allowable claim 24 and claim 39 to in part recite the language of allowable claims 44.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art, alone or in combination, clearly fail to teach or even suggest the claimed combination of features such as set forth in claims 1 and 39.

Also, claim 33 recites similar (though not identical) language and has been rejected for similar reasons as claim 1. Hence, the remaining independent claim 33 should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

Also, all pending dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (303-800-6678) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4238.

Date 1/21/10

Respectfully submitted,
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